

GOD'S TIMELINE

In every age God has been our refuge Ps 89

READ THE LECTIONARY ECOLOGICALLY

[Ws 9; Ps 89; Phm 9; Lk 14]

*Who can know the intentions of God?
 In every age God has been our refuge
 In your eyes a thousand years is like yesterday
 Make us know the shortness of our life
 Give success to the work of our hands
 Better than a slave - a dear brother
 Teach us your laws
 Who does not carry his cross ... cannot be my disciple
 Started to build and was unable to finish
 My disciple ... gives up all his possessions
 I am the light of the world.*

GREETING

Today's Readings remind us that all life on Earth is created by God over eons, even the air we breathe. Have we taken these gifts of God for granted and the people around us?

to commit a crime against the natural world is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God
 Pope Francis Laudato Si' #8

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

1. Circles of Life – In God justice and mercy meet. That our Church lead us into circles of life where we love our sisters and brothers and the Earth itself as kin ... we pray
2. Precaution - God is the source of all reality. That our national leaders truthfully assess the consequences of their environmental plans, abiding by the wise principle of precaution ... we pray
3. Humble - God has formed us from Earth like a loving parent. That we humbly choose simple lifestyles and not become slaves to passing whims ... we pray
4. Cosmic Time –God created the Universe over billions of years. That our generation not disrupt the time line God has set for Earth by changing the climate ... we pray
5. Lifestyle - Jesus showed us the way of the Cross. That believers willingly carry the cross of choosing simple lifestyles that lower out footprint on creation ... we pray
6. Astronomy – God has given delight to astronomers in every age. That we strive to understand their findings and rejoice with them in what they discover ... we pray

DISMISSAL

Today's Eucharist gives us the courage to take a more humble stance in life. We go in the wisdom of God to help make Earth a place ordered according to God.

SEASON OF CREATION

Inserting a Season of Creation into the Catholic Liturgical Year during September is a structural way to help implement the vision of Pope Francis' environmental encyclical Laudato Si'. As a pastoral initiative a new four week long liturgical season during September would help believers face the 21st century ecological challenge and stimulate parish communities. Eucharist is the central pastoral act of Church communities and a privileged place to remember Laudato Si' in prayer, our call to care for Earth as our common home and to love all living things on Earth as kin. Sunday worship is the common way Catholics are led to consciously know and experience God, of being aligned with God's timeline.

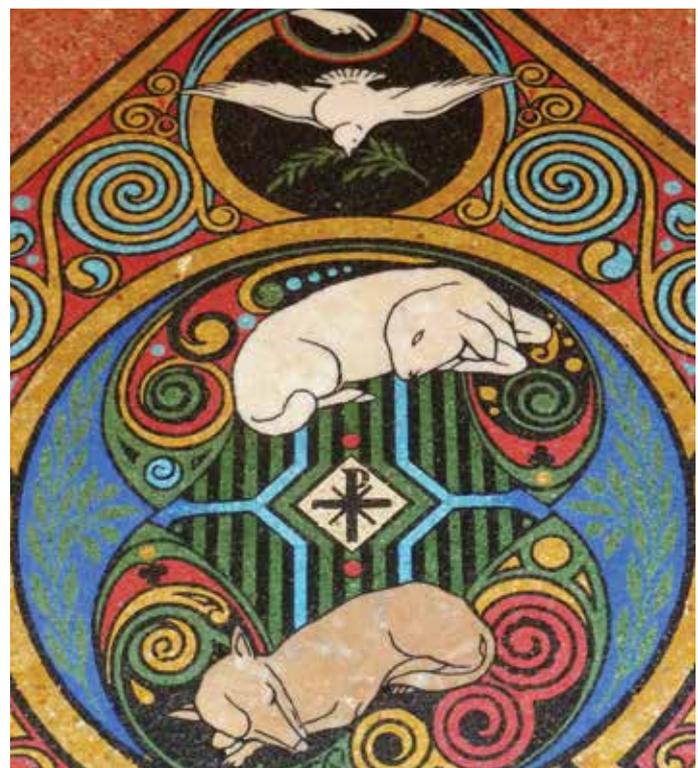
HYMNS

1. Be thou my vision
2. Psalm 90: In every age (J.Gelineau/
3. All that is hidden (If you would follow me)
4. Open my eyes
5. Christ, be our light (Longing for light)

science and religion, with their distinctive approaches ... can enter into an intense dialogue fruitful for both
 Pope Francis Laudato Si #62

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Read Pope Francis' encyclical on Earth as our Common Home.
- Prepare some points to help explain the encyclical to others.
- Invite a climate scientist to speak in your parish.



COVENANT

The prologue of John's Gospel proclaims the timeline of God as a 'Cosmic Covenant' in Jesus as the Word of God made flesh (Jn 1:1-5). The apostles proclaimed Good News to the nations (Ac 13:46-47), discerning that Christ and the Spirit he gave was for all peoples, actively present to the culture of every land (Ac 15:6-9). For God, a thousand years are like yesterday (Ps 89). The Cosmic Christ connects with the end time of judgement (Mt 25:34-40). The second coming of Christ brings fulfilment to the human journey (1Th 4:16-17). Apocalyptic writings pepper the Scriptures giving a perspective of 'time beyond time'; God's perspective (Is 51:6, 52:7). God initiated a plan of salvation for the entire cosmos in Christ (Ep 1:9-10) putting the risen Lord as head over every power (Co 1:14-17).

"ecosystems" ... have an intrinsic value ... Each organism, as a creature of God, is good and admirable in itself

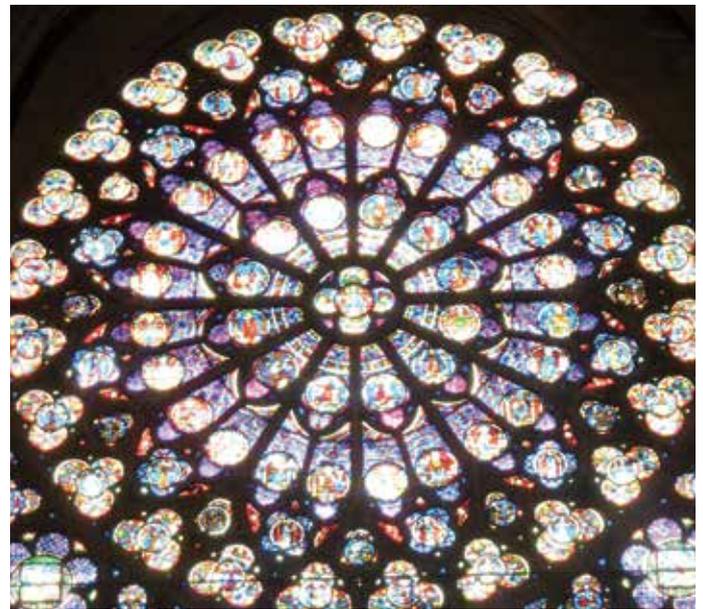
Pope Francis Laudato Si' #140

CHAMPIONS AND SAINTS

Guy Consalmano lectured in the USA on planetary science and was a member of the US Peace Corps before joining the Jesuits as a Brother. A member of the in team searching the Antarctic for meteorites, in 2002 an asteroid was named after him. He has published widely believing that science and religion must work alongside one another. In 2005 he addressed the Catholic conference on Climate Change in Canberra. He says, Religion needs science to keep it away from superstition and close to reality, protecting it from the creationism falsehood. A popular speaker on science he was awarded the Carl Sagan Medal and in 2014 published The Heavens Proclaim. He was appointed Director of the Vatican Observatory in 2015 and sometimes dubbed the Pope's Astronomer.

MYSTICISM

Mantra like prayer is common to all spiritual pathways. It may be the repetition of a phrase from Scripture such as 'Come Lord Jesus'. It may be repeating a verse of poetry like St Patrick: I bind unto myself today, the virtues of the star-lit heaven ... The stable Earth, the deep salt sea, around the old eternal rocks. (quoted in Sean McDonagh The Death of Life, Claretian 2004, 101). The repetitive chanting of the Psalms by Benedictines or Orthodox monks and nuns give voice to the power of mantras. Eastern religious traditions cultivate mantra prayer styles and many western people have adapted the practice. It can give a sense of the beyond, a time beyond time.



ECOLOGICAL INSIGHT

The Australian Department of the Environment designs and implements the Australian Government's policies and programmes. The department rest on four pillars - clean water, national heritage, clean air and clean land – to help to conserve the environment and promote action on global warming. Every few years the Department publishes State of the Environment Australia. These documents are clear and well formatted with check lists. While the lists can be used as an environmental reality score card for the nation, they also point to possible and hopeful future directions. The department proposes looking at longer timelines. Its reports challenge 1/ the media to report their findings and 2/ business boards to bring environmental data into their decision making. <http://www.environment.gov.au/science/soe/2011>

the ecological movement ... thanks to their efforts, environmental questions have increasingly found a place on public

Pope Francis Laudato Si #166

LOCAL CULTURE

Curiosity leads us to wonder about the lives of others and their stories. Australian scientists, men and women, enrich us as they tell how their interest in science grew. One common characteristic of ecological campaigners is that they experienced the natural world as children (Ecological Pioneers, M. Mulligan and S. Hill, Cambridge Uni Press, 2001). <https://www.science.org.au/learning/general-audience/history/interviews-australian-scientists>

Familiar

*object out of time swaying forward light up
unknowable inner space in us
A wind as from the planets lifts.*

David Malouf Inspirations

<http://www.poetrylibrary.edu.au/poets/malouf-david/inspirations-0767006>